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recurved style. The style may be sectioned even with a razor blade and the course of the pollen tubes traced within. Better results can perhaps be obtained by embedding in parafin and making thick sections of the style with any ordinary students microtome. Any of the caulescent or acaulescent violets serve the purpose. The flowers of *Viola cucullata* are, however, among the most suitable because of their larger size. The violet is readily distinguished even in summer by the long auricles to the rather long unequal sepals of the cleistogamous erect or ascending flowers. The flowers are in condition of showing pollen tubes when the peduncle which is at first erect, begins to curve giving the ovary a reflexed position. The degree of curvature is often a good indication of the various stages of fertilization. *Viola cucullata* is usually formed in most situations, and bears a great abundance of cleistogamous flowers until late in fall.

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### POLYGONUM LONGISTYLUM SMALL, A SYNONYM.

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BY J. A. NIEUWLAND.

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On reading Rafinesque's description of his *Polygonum bicornes*<sup>1</sup> in the Flora Ludoviciana one can scarcely hesitate in believing that this author, or Robin from whom he may have gotten an original description, had in mind or more likely at hand, an abnormally large specimen of *Polygonum longistylum* Small.<sup>2</sup> There are characters about the description especially that of the "elongated exerted styles," that are unique for this plant, and found in no other American *Persicaria*. The locality in both cases of publication is the same. Rafinesque describes the plant as large, four or five feet high; Small's plant is given as but one or two feet high. If this discrepancy in size may be overlooked, then Small's name is a synonym. As the work of Rafinesque is rare, I shall quote the paragraph of his diagnosis in full:

"75. *Polygonum bicornes*. Raf. Caulibus ramosis, ramis geniculatis, patulis teretibus intus crenulatis; foliis petiolatis, lanceolatis, glabris; floribus spicatis confertis octandris, distylis, staminibus inclusis, stylis exertis elongatis. Raf.—Renouée 1,

<sup>1</sup> Rafinesque, C. S. Flora Ludoviciana, p. 29, (1817).

<sup>2</sup> Small, J. K. Bull. Torr. Bot. Club, 1. p. 169, (1894), also, do. Monograph Am. Sp. *Polygonum* p. 62, (1895).

Rob. p. 366. Large plant, four or five feet high, branches purplish. every one of which bears a fine thick spike, about three inches long, of rose colored flowers. This species, and all the following, grow in swamps, moist grounds, and along the rivers; they are called vulgarly *Curages*, in Louisiana; all their flowers smell like honey, and afford it in plenty to the bees. Blossoms from August to December."

Transferred to the genus *Persicaria* we have the following synonymy:

***Persicaria bicornis*** (Raf.) Nov, comb.

*Polygonum bicornis* Raf., (1817) l. c.

*Polygonum longistylum* Small, (1894) l. c.

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### OUR BIRDS IN THE SPRING OF 1913.

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BY BROTHER ALPHONSUS, C. S. C.

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Several species were observed but a few times in March. The long interval between the first and second dates on which the Golden-crowned Kinglet was seen is exceptional. The Herring Gull is an occasional visitant to our inland lakes and rivers. The Northern Shrike is a very rare species—seen only late in autumn, in winter, and in early spring. Species which are only occasionally seen during their migration are: Kingfisher, Cowbird, Mourning Dove, Phoebe, Red-winged Blackbird and Killdeer.

The Tree Sparrow was most regular in its appearance in March and early April, no interval during this period being a week in length. The species may be found during this time in gardens and orchards. In most other parts of its stay with us, this sparrow is only rarely found.

Like the Tree Sparrow, the Brown Creeper was oftenest seen late in March and early in April. There were no long intervals between any of its dates in those two months; but in March, 1912, the species was not once recorded; and in April there was one interval of 7 days, the total number of records for the month being 8.

A comparison of the records for 1912 with those for 1913 shows considerable difference in the dates on which the Fox Sparrow was observed. In the former year there were five consecutive records from April 2 to 6; in the latter year there were four obser-